

Serial No. 10/790,964
67,167-002
5863-03

REMARKS

Applicant wishes to thank the Examiner for the detailed remarks and the allowability of claims 9, 10, 15, 16, 18, and 19. Claims 1, 4, 9, 10, 11, 15, and 17 have been amended. New claims 21-27 are presented. Claims 21-24 are allowable claims 9, 15, 18, and 19 in independent form. Accordingly, claims 1-27 are pending.

Claims 9, 10, and 15 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112. Applicant respectfully submits that the claims as amended are in proper condition according to §112.

Claims 1, 2, 4-7, 11-13, 17, and 20 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by *Martin* (5,038,589). *Martin* discloses that the clip has two parallel, spaced-apart prongs 42 which have a diameter slightly less than that of the spaced-apart bores 36 and are sufficiently spaced-apart to be received within the spaced-apart bores. [col. 3; lines 34-39] Applicant has amended the independent claims to recite that the retainer is engageable with said housing retainer groove at an angle to initially pass over said retainer engagement feature extending from the housing during insertion of the retainer into the housing retainer groove. *Martin* fails to disclose insertion at an angle to pass over a retainer engagement feature, as the only retainer engagement feature disclosed by *Martin* is lid 46 which is mounted over the clip after insertion of the clip. The amended claims are properly allowable.

New claims 25-27 recite further features of the present invention which are neither disclosed nor suggested by the cited references and are thus properly allowable.

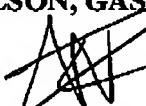
Please charge \$470.00 to Deposit Account No. 50-1482, in the name of Carlson, Gaskey & Olds, for 7 claims in excess of 20 and 4 additional independent claims. If any additional fees or extensions of time are required, the Commissioner is authorized to charge Deposit Account No. 50-1482.

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Applicant respectfully submits that this case is in condition for allowance. If the Examiner believes that a teleconference will facilitate moving this case forward to being issued, Applicant's representative can be contacted at the number indicated below.

Respectfully Submitted,

CARLSON, GASKEY & OLDS, P.C.


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